

**Response to Reporter Laura Newberry, UC Berkeley, Questions sent 9/20/2017  
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**Q1: To what extent is the EPA overseeing this remediation project?**

EPA helps protect human health and the environment by managing the cleanup of hazardous waste sites across the nation. In the case of former military sites, such as the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard (HPNS), the Department of Defense is the lead for the investigation and cleanup. In overseeing the Navy's cleanup of the HPNS, EPA's goal is to ensure that the community is protected from exposure to radiation and other hazardous substances and that the site can be used for work, recreation, and residential purposes.

**Q2: What has been the nature of the EPA's engagement with the Navy through this project? how are you coordinating remediation efforts with the Navy? Who takes the lead on what?**

The Navy is the lead agency responsible for the investigation and cleanup of the HPNS. EPA and the State of California regulatory agency partners oversee and enforce Navy compliance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (commonly called the Superfund law) and other requirements to ensure the cleanup at the HPNS protects human health and the environment. The Navy and regulatory agencies work together to decide how to address the contamination; the Navy also gathers community input through a public process.

**Q3: How is the EPA working with the community members who live near the Shipyard? How are community members being involved in the cleanup?**

The Navy leads the community involvement process at HPNS, which has included hiring a local community liaison and a community technical advisor, hosting bus tours and community workshops, and giving presentations for local organizations. EPA participates in Navy community engagement events, takes part in meetings hosted by local organizations, and responds to inquiries from the general public.

**Q4: Can you help me explain to readers why two consulting firms / subcontractors for the Navy (Tetra Tech and CH2M Hill) might have produced false information for their remediation reports?**

The Navy manages the contracts for the HPNS cleanup. Please contact the Navy with any questions about contractors' work at the site.

**Q5: How does the EPA take into account sea level rise and potential natural disasters (namely earthquakes) when overseeing this sort of coastal remediation work?**

When approving a remedy for a Superfund site, EPA takes into consideration the long-term effectiveness and permanence of the potential remedy. The effects of sea level rise and potential natural disasters are usually considered as part of this approval process.

The Navy accounted for sea level rise as part of its process in designing the cleanup at the HPNS. For example, at the landfill in Parcel E-2, the combined size of the retaining wall and sea wall, once complete, will be 35 feet wide and twelve feet higher than the current average sea level. The walls are built to withstand future sea level rise, severe earthquakes, and waves as

high as any experienced in the past one hundred years. These walls are just one part of a comprehensive protection system, which also includes a cover of clean soil up to six feet deep.

In addition, in cases where hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants remain onsite at levels higher than would allow for unlimited use and unrestricted exposure, the adequacy of a Superfund site's cleanup remedy is reevaluated no less than every five years. As such, the Navy will continue to review the remedy at the HPNS in future to ensure protection of human health and the environment.

**Q6: How are congressional budgets affecting the EPA's work in this specific case and in other cases like this?**

For Superfund sites on military facilities, such as the HPNS, the Department of Defense (DoD) is responsible for the investigation and cleanup of the site. Over the years, EPA's oversight costs have come from both DoD and EPA's budget. Currently, generally, EPA's oversight costs for Superfund sites at military facilities come from EPA's budget. However, at the HPNS, the Navy has provided a short-term supplement to cover some of EPA's work.

**Q7: How is the EPA taking into account the disproportionate rates of asthma and cancer in this community as it oversees this cleanup?**

Before EPA approves any cleanup plan, a rigorous Human Health Risk Assessment analysis is conducted, which takes into account the sensitivity of children, seniors, and other vulnerable populations. We are using an approach that is protective for all populations, including those who have disproportionate rates of health effects. In addition, the Navy and EPA are obligated to review the integrity of the cleanup remedy at least every five years to ensure that the systems in place are still protective of residents and the environment.